

**REMARKS**

Upon entry of this Amendment, claims 1-11 will be all the claims pending in this application. Applicants amend claim 1 to further recite “having an aromatic ring in the presence of an acid.” Applicants also add new claim 11. Support for the amendment to claim 1 can be found in the specification at paragraph [0030]; and support for new claim 11 can be found at paragraph [0031] of the specification. Claims 5-10 are withdrawn. Entry is respectfully requested.

Applicants respectfully note that the Office Action Summary mailed along with the Office Action of February 2, 2009, was incorrect. The Examiner indicated that claims 1-8 are pending; however, as noted above, claims 1-11 are currently pending as of entry of this Amendment. Since claims 9 and 10 are drawn to the non-elected product, they are indicated as being withdrawn. New claim 11 is dependent upon method claim 1.

**The Claims Are Patentable Under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)**

Claims 1-4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Hashizume et al (US 5,766,445).

Applicants respectfully traverse for the following reasons. Claim 1 is amended, and new claim 11 is added.

Amended claim 1 comprises the step of oxidative-polymerizing a compound having an aromatic ring in the presence of an acid.

To the contrary, Hashizume (US 5,766,445) does not teach or suggest that a compound having an aromatic ring is oxidative-polymerized in the presence of an acid. Claim 1, and all other claims depending thereon, are thus not anticipated by Hashizume.

Further, when a compound having an aromatic ring is oxidative-polymerized in the presence of an acid, a negative ion from the acid is incorporated into the synthesized fibril-shaped polymer as a dopant, which imparts improved electric conductivity. Also the electric conductivity of the carbon fiber is improved by using the a fibril-shaped polymer (see paragraph [0030]).

In view of the foregoing, claim 1 would also not have been obvious over Hashizume.

Withdrawal of the rejection is earnestly solicited.

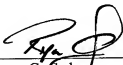
In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

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